



Photo by Susan Wagner

Whiteman members and local residents help clean up what's left of Tech. Sgt. Michael Mitchell's house south of Whiteman. Sergeant Mitchell is a member of the 509th Security Forces Squadron.

Tornados wreak havoc

Whiteman spared from nature's fury

By Staff Sgt. Rob Hazelett
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Four potentially devastating tornadoes came within striking distance of Whiteman Sunday, causing much of western Missouri and all base personnel to take cover. In all, 10 people in Missouri perished including a man from Urich and one woman in Sedalia, as a result of the storms.

The first alarm sirens went off at 2:57 p.m. as the first tornado came within six miles west of the base at approximately 3:30 p.m., and again at 7:42 p.m., when the last storm came within two miles southeast of the base at approximately 9:05 p.m.

Preliminary reports classified the last tornado as a category F2 on the Fujita scale. An F2 storm has winds ranging from 113-157 miles per hour.

Official classification of the storms usually takes some time. "The National Weather Service is responsible for that," said Maj. Corey Hummel, 509th Operations Support Squadron weather flight commander. "The damage assessment team must survey the damage in various locations, and once they are finished they assess a full scale reading on what they've found."

The storms produced 1.08 inches of rain, most of which occurred during the last storm, which began at 8:55 p.m. The storm also brought hail that was more than two inches in diameter, Major Hummel said.

"As far as damage to the base, we had no facility, infrastructure or mission impact," said Lt. Col. Ben Mitchell, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron interim commander. "However, there was major impact to five of our Whiteman community families, when a tornado severely damaged their homes. The scene on Monday, with members from multiple units coming to the aid of our community members, truly put into perspective the term 'Team Whiteman.'"

While the twisters occurred before the actual tornado season, which is listed as April 15 to June 15, personnel should be prepared for any tornadic activity which can occur due to the warm moist air coming up from the Gulf Coast colliding with cool air coming down from Canada.

"I would add that people take the sirens seriously by taking cover when the alarms go off, and not to come out until the all clear is announced," said Capt. Jeff Gipson, 509th OSS deputy flight commander, who was on standby Sunday as part of the severe weather action team.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Burton

Capt. Daniel Stout and Tim Hale (left), 13th Bomb Squadron, help put flight gear on Allison Mahurin, 5, during Operation Spirit Saturday. Children were able to experience a mock deployment and learn what their parents must do to deploy. Allison is the daughter of Tech. Sgts. Sean 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Michelle Mahurin, 509th Comptroller Squadron.

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SPIRIT TIMES
Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

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Air Force Quiz

What pay grade is a gunnery sergeant in the Marine Corps?

9er Line

Dial 687-3119 or e-mail
9r.Line@whiteman.af.mil


Whiteman’s 9er Line provides a communication channel for you to obtain information and assistance in making Whiteman a better place to live and work.

Before calling the 9er Line, try to resolve your problem with the responsible base agency.

If you’ve exhausted all the normal avenues to resolve the situation, then call Brig. Gen. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, at 687-3119 or e-mail 9r.Line@whiteman.af.mil.

Need a Wingman?

Confidential crisis counseling available 24/7. Call the Whiteman Help Hotline: 866-395-4357



Letter to Airmen

Honorable Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

March 8

Letter to Airmen: Air Force Smart Operations 21

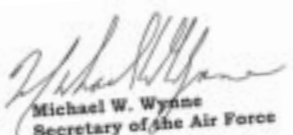

Our role as an Air Force is to provide an array of capabilities for the Combatant Commanders to use as directed by the President. These capabilities include the widest variety of joint operations from combat operations to humanitarian aid. Like any other organization, we must seek to constantly give value to our “customers.” It’s not only the right thing to do for the American taxpayer; it’s the smart thing to do.

In my December “Letter to Airmen,” I talked about expanding LEAN concepts beyond just depot operations. That effort has now grown into Air Force Smart Operations 21 (AFSO 21), a dedicated effort to maximize value and minimize waste in our operations. AFSO 21 is a leadership program for commanders and supervisors at all levels, looking at each process from beginning to end. It doesn’t just look at how we can do each task better, but asks the tougher and more important question: Why are we doing it this way? Is each of the tasks relevant, productive, and value added? In other words is it necessary at all? With AFSO 21, we will march unnecessary work out the door – forever.

AFSO 21 signifies a shift in our thinking. It is centered on processes (groups of tasks) rather than tasks alone, which allows us to gain insights into the value, or lack of value, in each task we perform. For example, why does an EPR take 21 days at some bases to process, and only 8 at another? We must do better across the entire Air Force, and no process is immune from this critical review. AFSO 21 is built on successful principles from the corporate world, and has already yielded results in the Air Force. AFMC has used the tenets of AFSO 21 to put an extra 100 tankers back on the line each day. AFSO 21 is about working smarter to deliver warfighting capabilities.

We must continue to meet our worldwide requirements even with the continued pressure on our budget. But AFSO 21 is not about cost cutting; it enables our service to take our warfighters of today and grow them into the most effective and efficient thinkers for 2010 and beyond. The continuous process improvements of AFSO 21 will be the new culture of our Air Force. We will look at innovative ways to use our materiel and personnel more efficiently. For example, we’re already planning on using the Guard and Reserve differently under the concept of Total Force Integration, capitalizing on their inherent strengths

As AFSO 21 training comes to your base, ask yourself, “What have I improved today?” Every idea is worth taking to your supervisor. To learn more about the AFSO 21 program, visit the AFSO 21 website at <http://www.afso21.hq.af.mil/>. I have full faith that by implementing AFSO 21 together, we will make our Air Force not only more effective, but will drastically improve our combat capability.



Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

RESPECT: The tie that binds the NCO corps

By Master Sgt. Mark Haviland
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va.—The transition to noncommissioned officer, and later, to senior noncommissioned officer can be a daunting experience for any Airman, but Chief Master Sgt. David Popp, Air Combat Command's command chief has a few words of advice for those who make the journey.

The key to success, Chief Popp says, is respect - not only earning it and keeping it, but also understanding the fundamentals behind the word itself, and it's a message he delivers regularly to newly minted NCOs and Senior NCOs.

R = Responsibility

Winston Churchill once said, “The price of greatness is responsibility.” “The “R” in the word "respect" stands for responsibility.

“As an NCO in the world's greatest air and space force, we expect you to stand up and step up to your responsibilities.

“It is your responsibility to ensure the Airmen are housed properly, trained properly, equipped properly, and ready to deploy to carryout the mission.”

E = Example

“What you do speaks so loudly, your Airmen may not hear what you're saying!” Gen. George S. Patton once said, “Troops, you're always on parade!”

“You’re an example to your fellow Airmen when you're in the shoppette Saturday night when you've got your earring in and are purchasing those three cases of Miller Light. You're an example to your fellow Americans when you deploy to fight the

hurricanes, floods, or forest fires.

“And you're an example when you wear this uniform overseas, driving that convoy or working at the Camp Bucca Interment Center. To earn respect, you must set the right example.”

S = Standards

“If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything! If you don't enforce the standards, then who will?”

“Never, never, never apologize for enforcing our high standards. When we don’t enforce the technical orders, the AFIs, the general orders - Equipment gets wrecked, people's lives are placed in jeopardy, and our fight to win the GWOT gets set back. To earn respect, you must stand up and enforce the standards.”

P = Performance

“There is no second place in war; you either win or you lose! NCOs are responsible for their individual performance, their team’s performance, and the overall outcome of the mission. This war on terrorism is much bigger than Iraq or Afghanistan.

“When you put on our team's jersey, this is a joint fight - that's why it says, US-AF, US-Army, US-Navy, US-Marines. Many NCOs now are familiar with 15 straight years of deployments to Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operations Northern and Southern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom I/II, and Operation Enduring Freedom. As we move into Phase IV we will be asking all Airmen to step up and perform at 10 percent of their ability. To earn respect, you must continue to perform.

E = Evaluate

“How do you evaluate those daily crisis', issues, and problems brought to you?

“I believe every NCO shows up to these fiery situations with a bucket in each hand. In the left is a bucket of water and in the right is a bucket of gasoline.

“Which one do you use? The water to extinguish the situation or the gasoline to get it roaring out of control? I challenge NCOs to get the facts before they use either bucket— evaluate the situation before you empty one of those buckets. To earn respect, you must evaluate before you take action.”

C = Communications

“I have found that Airmen are always down on what they are not up on. How well do you share the ‘big picture’ with your Airmen?”

“How well do you provide your performance expectations to your Airmen? Do you share with them: the who, the where, the when, and most importantly the whys? To earn respect, you must keep the lines of communications open.”

T = Taking care of the Airmen

“Your Airmen do not care how much you know—until they know how much you care about them.

“If I asked you to tell me about your Top 3 performing Airmen, could you?”

“Could you tell me their: date arrived station, family status, hobbies, goals, their CDC score, or their PT Score? Could you tell me what they did last weekend?”

“Sadly, what I routinely find across our Air Force are supervisors who can only tell me these things after a suicide, a fatality, or serious accident has occurred.

“To earn respect, you must know and take care of your Airmen.”

Newsline

Chapel hosts free weekly Lenten lunches

Lenten Lunches are provided free of charge each Wednesday through Easter at the Chapel. Daily mass for Catholics and a devotional for Protestants begin at 11:30 a.m., with homemade soup and breads served at noon.

This is open to everyone. Contact the chapel at 687-3652 for more info.

Exercise Planned

An exercise will be conducted here mid March through early April. Local residents and base members may see and hear exercise activity during day and night time hours, which will include the use of blank ammunition, noise producing simulators and smoke.

Exercise operations will not inconvenience local residents. An environmental assessment has determined that there will be no significant environmental effects. For more information, call public affairs at 687-6123

All-Star game

Twelve intramural all-star basketball players from Whiteman will travel to Central Missouri State University March 25 to take on an intramural all-star team from the university.

Game time is 2 p.m. at Lovinger Gym on the CMSU campus. Call 687-5496 for more details.

New procedures for tuition assistance

Due to recent updates to the education services database, all tuition assistance must be accomplished online through the Air Force Virtual Education Center. The value of AFVEC is its "use it from anywhere" capability.

The base training and education services office can assist in learning how to use AFVEC and the Air Force Portal in the following ways:

■ If having difficulty accessing the portal, come to the education center and we will issue the TA and you can sign it. When able to gain access to the portal you will digitally sign the TA.

■ Logon to AFVEC through the portal and use the "apply for TA link" from work or from home.

■ Visit the education center and use a workstation provided by us.

For more information, call the base training and education center at 687-5750.

BX shoppers can add names to buddy list

A click of the mouse can bring the latest news and information from the Whiteman Base Exchange to your personal computer.

Subscribers to the "BX Buddy List" are automatically updated via e-mail approximately two times per month about sales promotions and other special events happening at the retail location.

To sign up for the buddy list, authorized shoppers must provide their e-mail address and sign a form available at the customer service desk located at the back of the store. The BX respects your privacy.

E-mail addresses of the subscribers will not to be found in the weekly bulk e-mail, you will only see your address located on the email as will our other valued customers.

Correction

Correction:
In the front page story, "Powder found at BX no cause for alarm," of the March 10 issue of the Spirit Times, the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron was incorrectly identified as the squadron that tested the unknown substance found at the BX. The testers were, in fact, members of the 509th Medical Group, Bioenvironmental Engineering.

Meeting the challenge of BRAC

442nd integrates new people, aircraft

By Maj. David Kurle

442nd Fighter Wing public affairs

While the base realignment and closure process benefited the 442nd Fighter Wing with nine additional aircraft and an estimated 185 to 200 new jobs, the assimilation of these new assets comes at a very busy time for the wing.

With preparations underway for a deployment, modifications to A-10 Thunderbolts in progress and at least two inspections on the horizon, the integration of additional aircraft and people, while a welcome result of the BRAC, adds an additional challenge to the wing.

The nine aircraft are coming from the 926th Fighter Wing at New Orleans Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, La., which lost its flying mission as a result of the BRAC process.

"We're cramming three years of work into the next eight months," said Col. Patrick Cord, 442nd FW commander. "I'm confident the wing is up to the challenge. We're professional, we're experienced and we've proven ourselves in combat."

"The task we face now is deciding how we're going to manage the integration of nine more aircraft and the additional people into our existing facilities and organization," he said.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

The first two A-10s from the 926th Fighter Wing, based near New Orleans, arrived at the 442nd Fighter Wing Feb. 24.

While the timeline for realigning the 926th is earlier than expected, officials at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., stress that an early move is necessary because Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage to the New Orleans base.

"The timeline for moving aircraft and closing the 926th Fighter Wing is based on two key factors – the need to transform the military and the way we do business, and taking care of our personnel," said Maj. Gen. Charles Stenner, director of plans and programs at Headquarters AFRC. "Mission demands dictate that timeline."

After assessing the hurricane's damage, it was determined that the 926th would not be able to maintain wartime readiness past a certain point.

Almost every agency in the 442nd, as well as agencies in the active-duty's 509th Bomb Wing, will help complete the integration.

For example, the question of where to park nine new A-10s is being coordinated between elements of both wing staffs, and the maintenance, operations and mission support groups.

"The 509th Mission Support Group enables not only the 509th, but also all tenant organizations on Whiteman Air Force Base," said Ken Nugent, deputy

commander of the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, who is also the point of contact for supporting the 442nd's integration efforts. "The 509th Civil Engineer Squadron is supporting the additional aircraft and personnel coming to the 442nd by planning, programming, design and construction of all facilities that are a part of the move."

To assist the wing with manpower issues related to the BRAC decision, a Site Activation Task Force team from AFRC visited Whiteman March 7-9 to assess the needs of the agencies and units in the 442nd FW impacted most by the addition of nine aircraft.

"We are trying to identify all the required actions to comply with the BRAC directive to plus-up the 442nd to 24 A-10s," said Lt. Col. Steve Parker, chief of fighter programs at Headquarters AFRC and the SATAF team leader.

Colonel Cord is confident that AFRC will provide support during the integration process and that, in the long run, the wing's workload will return to a more normal level.

"I believe the 442nd, in the short term, will be a very busy wing," he said. "But as we work through the hiring process, over the long term, the activities of the wing will return to a more normal level."

Air Force introduces next generation cruise missile

By Staff Sgt. Ryan

Hansen

Air Armament Center Public Affairs

Since the late 1970s the Department of Defense has tried and failed numerous times to give the warfighter an affordable standoff cruise missile capable of taking out the enemy's air defenses early on in a conflict.

Fast forward to 2006 and that warfighter need has finally been met by the Air Force's next generation cruise missile — the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile.

At 14 feet long and 2,250 pounds, the JASSM is an autonomous, conventional munition with a standoff range of more than 200 nautical miles. It is designed to defeat heavily defended, high-priority enemy targets deep behind enemy lines.

The JASSM will be able to increase several airframes capabilities.

"The B-2 weapon system consists of a Conventional Rotary Launcher Assembly and the JASSM. The B-2 aircraft has the capability of releasing 16 JASSM missiles, eight from each RLA," said Maj. Brian Bogue, 509th Operations Support Squadron

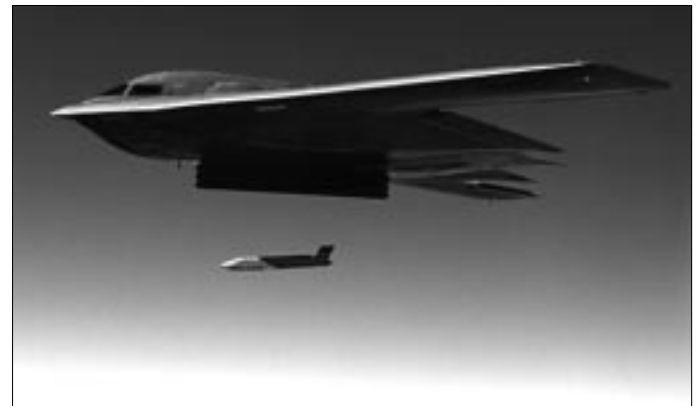
weapons officer. JASSM can be released in virtually any type of weather and uses its inertial navigation and Global Positioning Systems to find its intended target and then its infrared seeker for pinpoint accuracy just before impact.

"The AGM-158A JASSM, is an air-launched, medium range autonomous cruise missile. JASSM is designed as a launch and leave weapon system, in that once launched, the missile will navigate to and engage its planned target with no further control communication from the launching aircraft or other command agency," said Major Bogue.

Once in the air, the stealthy cruise missile can reach high subsonic speeds at .85 mach. It is also equipped with an anti-jammer that keeps the enemy in its crosshairs regardless of their technology or capabilities.

Future capabilities

While JASSM has proven itself, there are plans to make it even more lethal. Another phase of the program is to make an extended range version of the weapon. JASSM-ER will increase the standoff capability to more than 500 nautical miles. The weapon,



Courtesy photo

A B-2 Bomber releases a Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile during testing.

which looks exactly the same as the original from the outside, has a new engine and can carry more fuel. It will first be integrated on the B-1B and will be ready for flight testing later this spring.

"A JASSM-ER will have the same lethality and stealth as a JASSM, but it will deliver that knock-out punch from more than twice as far away," said Lt. Col. Stephen Davis, JASSM Block 2 Squadron commander. "In the simplest terms, this means some child's mom or dad won't have to fly their B-1 through enemy threats to strike many deeply placed targets."

New development activity

is also planned to enable JASSM to enhance its maritime engagement capability and become the air launched weapon of choice not only for highly defended fixed and relocatable land targets, but moving maritime targets as well.

And recently the Australian Defense Force selected JASSM to be its long range air-to-surface missile for their F/A-18 Hornet fleet.

As it stands right now the Air Force currently plans to buy 2,400 JASSMs and 2,500 JASSM-ERs with production extending through 2018. (Staff Sgt. Rob Hazelett contributed to this article)

CMSAF speaks about future changes

By Senior Airman Vanessa Young

48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

RAF LAKENHEATH, United Kingdom —As threats against the United States evolve, Airmen can expect the Air Force to evolve as well said the Air Force's senior enlisted member during his visit here, Friday, March 10.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray talked about the Air Force's evolution and the initiatives leadership is taking to modernize the Air Force and its Airmen.

"We've changed in the past, and we are going to continue to undergo change in the future," Chief Murray said. "We've always been an evolving force."

He said as new technology and new equipment are introduced, Airmen will see a reduction in the personnel structure. Some Air Force specialty codes will realign, some will decrease and some will grow to meet demands.

"We have some numbers floating out there that indicate in the next five years we may be 40,000 less Airmen than we are today," he said. "Toward the summer, I think we'll be able to give the Air Force a clearer snapshot about where we want to go with that."

The chief said Air Force leadership has looked at the deployment aspects of our combat expeditionary requirements and plans to create a balance for those career fields deploying longer and more frequently than others.

And, as the Army transforms their structure, the Air Force will provide more tactical air control, combat weather and air operations support to the Army, Chief Murray said.

As an advocate for the enlisted force, the chief said there are many upcoming improvements for Airmen.

From the fundamentals at basic training, to the com-

mand senior enlisted leader course for chief master sergeants, professional military education programs will continue to evolve and improve.

"Our PME is the greatest in the world," the chief said. "But it can be better sequenced for the needs of our Airmen as we shape for the future."

Bases across the Air Force have standardized professional development centers over the last few years. Air Force leadership started with the basics; extending basic training from six and a half weeks to eight and a half weeks.

In the future, the chief said basic training will include more information about the enemies we are fighting, and will incorporate lessons learned from Afghanistan, Iraq and other contingency areas around the world.

Along with improving PME and training, leadership is also developing education programs to prepare Airmen to work in joint-service environments. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Peter Pace, recently approved the implementation of the Joint Professional Military Education program.

"This [JPMEP] requires all services to evaluate and ensure we have joint education throughout our ranks from the youngest Airman to the most senior NCO," Chief Murray said. "It has a joint professional military education course for senior NCOs who are assigned to joint commands. And we've implemented a senior-level course primarily for chief master sergeants, sergeants major and master chief petty officers who will serve at the most senior levels in a joint task force or joint organization."

In addition to joint service training, air and space expeditionary force deployments continue to send Airmen around the world.

"It doesn't matter today if you are serving in the United Kingdom, in the southeastern United States or in



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kristi Emler

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray speaks to Airmen attending the Mathies Airman Leadership School during his visit to RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom, Friday, March 10, 2006. He spoke to the Class 2006-D Airmen about mentorship, force shaping and the steady increases in military pay compared to the civilian environment.

Japan because we are a global force," the chief said. "Serving in the United Kingdom doesn't mean the mission focus is just on Europe; it's serving as a global expeditionary force no matter where home station may be. An Airman serving in the United Kingdom could also serve in Iraq, Afghanistan or Africa."

Throughout his visit, the chief expressed his gratitude to all servicemembers and their families.

"I have nothing but the greatest appreciation for what our Airmen are doing," he said. "It is amazing the experience and commitment we continue to have from our Airmen. It's a busy force, there's a lot going on in the world, there are a lot of demands that are placed for those of us who are serving in the military, and our people are doing absolutely great."

ALPHA Joining the fight COMPANY

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Nathan Smith

1st Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment Public Affairs

Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment recently deployed to assist in the efforts in the Middle East.

This company is an attack helicopter company whose mission is to destroy enemy armor, mechanized and other massed forces through the use of aerial firepower, mobility and shock effect.

Alpha Company is commanded by Army Capt. Travis Young and Army 1st Sgt. David Gail.

The company, consisting of 35 Soldiers, deployed with the 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment Feb. 28.

Brig. Gen. Michael Brandt, Missouri Air National Guard commander, spoke to the company during a deployment ceremony at Warrensburg High School.

General Brandt encouraged the unit to stay safe and to look out for each other while deployed.

State Rep. David Pearce (District 121 of Warrensburg) presented the commander and first sergeant each a Missouri state flag to fly while deployed.

Col. Gary Herchenroeder, 20th Combat Aviation Brigade commander, wished the Soldiers a safe and quick return back to Missouri.

The final speaker was Lt. Col. Thomas Burson. Colonel Burson, commander of the 1st Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, made a special presentation since he wasn't deploying with the company.

He said he couldn't go, but he sent his publications bag, an item required in the cockpit to fly, with the company — under two stipulations.

He requested it go on as many combat missions as possible, and that it is not left alone with the warrant officers.

A reception after the ceremony gave families and friends an opportunity to visit with the Soldiers and wish them the best before they met up with the 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment.



Members of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment load gear on pallets as part of their preparation for a deployment to the Middle East. This unit, consisting of 35 Soldiers, left for deployment Feb. 28.

Operation Spirit

Whiteman children experience deploying first hand

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Jason Burton
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

With an 8 a.m. phone call, more than 65 children were recalled to the deployment center Saturday to start Operation Spirit.

Operation Spirit was a simulated deployment designed to give the children of deployed members the experience of what their parents must do prior to leaving for a deployment.

After being recalled, the deployers reported to the deployment center at 9 a.m. to start inprocessing.

The children received ID cards, a small breakfast and watched a slide show of deployed troops while they waited for the opening briefing.

Brig. Gen. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, started the briefing by thanking everyone who helped organize the event.

“This day happened because of a lot of team work, and I want to say ‘thanks’ to the people who helped put this together,” General Miller said.

He went on to talk about many different aspects of Air Force deployments while showing places where Air Force members are deployed and explaining how a deployed location works.

General Miller also talked about how everyone, including the family of deployed military members, has a role to play.

Spouses and children have a huge role to play by loving, supporting and helping deployed members

do their jobs overseas, General Miller said.

“I hope today will be a little bit of a view of what your parents go through to go defend our nation,” he added.

After the general’s briefing, the children were able to watch a reenlistment.

Staff Sgt. Andrew Heisler, 509th Munitions Squadron, volunteered to reenlist during Operation Spirit so the children could see a reenlistment.

Following the ceremony an intelligence, weather and a force protection briefing helped the children understand some of the situations their parents face at deployed locations.

At the conclusion of the briefings, the children were broken into four different groups by age and began the rest of the inprocessing.

They were led through a deployment line where they received a mobility folder with orders, dog tags, a health assessment, items from the chapel and family support center. They were also given “simulated” immunizations.

“There were a few individuals that said ‘they didn’t want a shot,’ said Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Norris, 509th Medical Operations Squadron, “until I told them they weren’t actually getting a shot, only a sticker.”

Upon completion of the deployment line, the groups took turns going to the flight line to view static displays of a B-2 Spirit, A-10 Thunderbolt, AH-64 Apache and a C-130 Hercules.

The children were able to go into the cargo bay of the C-130 where they sat down in the jump seats and buckled up.

After the children were all strapped in, Tech. Sgt. Russ Freeburg, 62nd Airlift Squadron loadmaster from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., explained some characteristics of the C-130 and answer questions.

“We are happy we were able to come here and help with this event,” Sergeant Freeburg said.

Once the “flight” was over the children exited the aircraft to be “welcomed home” by a cheering crowd outside the plane.

After each group finished viewing the static displays on the flight line, they returned to the deployment center to view displays from different base organizations.

When the last group returned from the flightline, a military working dog demonstration was performed by the 509th Security Forces Squadron.

Operation Spirit ended with a barbecue for the children and the more than 200 volunteers that helped make the day happen.

The hard work done by everyone involved resulted in a great day, according to Liz Bush, 509th Mission Support Squadron.

She said “My daughter enjoyed the opening slide show because she got to see her father.”

The family support center is considering another Operation Spirit in the fall.



Jacob McCreary, 5, fills out his will prior to deploying during Operation Spirit Saturday. Jacob is the son of Lt. Col. James McCreary, 509th Mission Support Group deputy commander.

Thank you

Team Whiteman:
Thank you for making Operation Spirit a success! As 509ers we always focus on the mission — but last weekend many of you helped share our expeditionary mission with the families who make it possible.

In a few short hours, more than 65 children got a much better understanding of what their military family member experiences during a deployment. From the “recall,” through processing, airlift and seeing some aspects of deployed life, you helped our Air Force family connect with the expeditionary Air Force we all live in.

Planning and coordinating everything to make this day happen was no easy task. From idea to execution, it took three months and 200 volunteers from every part of our team: our family support center, spouses, commanders, NCOs and Airmen, civilians, Guard and Reserve.

Everyone came together with great enthusiasm to help run the “mo line,” drive the buses, cook the meals and make the static displays happen. Those of you who were able to take part know that you brought huge smiles to the faces of many kids and the parents (or grandparents) who remain here on the home front, waiting for their family members to come home.

Rhonda and I deeply appreciate the teamwork you showed that made “Operation Spirit” a great example of the way warriors care for “their” families. Well done!

Sincerely,
Brig. Gen. Chris Miller
509th Bomb Wing



Airman 1st Class Erica Martin, 509th Security Forces Squadron, shows Tyler Stanton, 7, an M-16A2 at the weapons display. There were several other displays for children to look including chemical gear, medical, explosive ordinance disposal and face painting. The children were also able to sample meals ready to eat. Tyler is the son of 1st Lt. Troy Stanton, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Lt. Col. Kelly Kirts, 509th Communications Squadron commander, explains to Karson Whitt, 5, his orders and while he is going while Kyle, 12, waits for his orders. Karson and Kyle are the sons of Master Sgt. Kevin Whitt, 509th Security Forces Squadron.



'We go where you go'

These large retail operations, in

While AAFES is able to provide access to local wares and souvenirs including artwork, jewelry and rugs, the merchandise assortment in deployed environments typically includes basic health and

The scope and intensity of the operations are clear signs that wherever our troops serve, AAFES is dedicated to providing them competitively low prices on the services and merchandise they need...and want...in order to enhance their quality of life.”
(Courtesy of the Army & Air Force Exchange Service)

The following is a breakdown of Air Force Aid money that was given to Whiteman for use by your fellow Airmen. Many of you reading may have even benefited from this service. If you haven't already, please consider giving to AFAF and make a commitment to caring.

Emergency Assistance:	
Loans	\$82,376
Grants	\$4,949
Education:	
2005-2006 Gen. Hap Arnold education grants	\$70,500
Community Enhancement Programs:	
Bundles for babies	\$3,009
Car care because we care	\$2,922
Child care for PCS	\$2,501
Child care for volunteers	\$2,688
Give parents a break	\$5,553
Heart Link	\$1,600
Local education programs	\$4,007
Phone cards for deployed members	\$8,030
Wellness (Zimmy books & magnets)	\$429
Youth employment skills	\$3,672
Total Assistance:	\$192,236
WAFB 2005 contribution through AFAF	\$44,262



Photo by David Armer

Senior Antoine Hood looks down court during play against Texas Christian University Jan. 14.

Falcons compete in NCAA basketball tournament

SAN ANTONIO—The U.S. Air Force Academy's men's basketball team made an appearance at the NCAA tournament Thursday, when they faced off with 4th-seeded Illinois at Cox Arena in San Diego.

The Falcons, members of the Mountain West Conference, enter the tournament with a 24-6 record and are seeded 13th.

The game was the Falcons' second appearance in the NCAA Tournament in the last three years.

The winner advanced and faces the winner of the Washington-Utah State game on March 18.

Much to learn 'grasshopper'



Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Padden

James Spinks (left), 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, practices sparring techniques with instructor Guy Witt during the Dentokan Martial Arts Class Monday at the base gym. The class meets 11 a.m.-noon Mondays and Wednesdays in the spinning room.

Team Whiteman Community

Chapel offers class for teens

The base chapel offers an abstinence and relationship education class for teens 4-6 p.m. at the teen center Sundays through April 30. Supper will be provided.

Family Support

Call 687-7132 for more details on these family support center activities. Events take place at the FSC.

Interview class set

Learn the basics of effective interviewing, 9 a.m. Saturday. Designed for spouses, retirees and family members. Reservations are required.

Pre-separation briefing set

A pre-separation briefing for people separating from the military begins at 8 a.m. Monday.

Representatives from the military personnel flight, family support center, Reserves and finance will provide information.

The MPF separations and retirements office schedules members for

this briefing.

For more information, call them at 687-1500 or 687-6720.

Class helps new parents

Expectant parents can gain information and resources at the Bundles for Babies class 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Participants will receive free Time Life books and layette bundles. Reservations are required.

WIC representative visits base

A WIC representative is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

WIC includes nutrition education, health promotion and a supplemental food program to help women, infants and children who have nutritional needs.

For more details, call the WIC office in Warrensburg at 747-2012.

Pre-deployment briefing set

A mandatory pre-deployment briefing for people who are deploying or going on a temporary duty assignment for more than 30 days begins at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Special at Airman's Attic

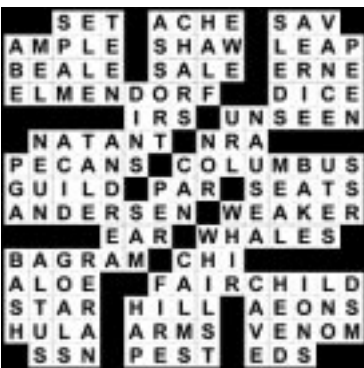
The Airman's Attic will be open March 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for all E-5s and below and their family members.

Old Blood and Guts

By Capt. Tony Wickman
71st Flying Training Wing Public
Affairs

ACROSS

1. Part 1 of George S. Patton quote
8. Scottish Highlander
12. Useless
13. Prone to do
15. Betrayal
16. Most loving of
17. Mao ____-tung
18. Dine
19. BBQ items



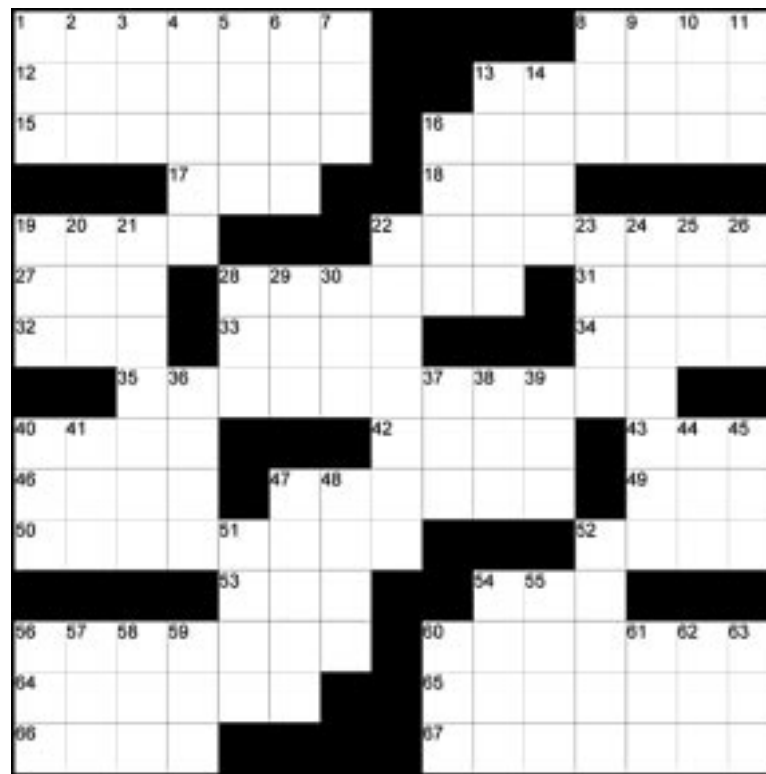
March 10 solutions

22. Part 2 of George S. Patton quote
27. Lode
28. Hills
31. Jab
32. Gamble
33. Fever Pitch actress Skye
34. Granola
35. Part 3 of George S. Patton quote
40. Central Europe river
42. Command or hitching
43. Public TV station
46. Palm product
47. Warns
49. Giant Manning
50. Dug under
52. Mil. uniforms
53. Non-mil. grade on RAB
54. Tarzan, once
56. Part 4 of George S. Patton quote
60. American crocodilians
64. Part 5 of George S. Patton quote
65. Turkey neighbor
66. ____ Domini
67. Foot problem

DOWN

1. Humor
2. NORAD region

3. Lament
4. ERA, RBI, etc.
5. Young lady
6. Healing plant
7. Desire
8. Gallivant
9. "Honest" president
10. Golfer Ernie
11. Permit
13. Idles
14. 2005 Alba movie ____ the Blue
16. Grope
19. Steal
20. Anger
21. Amid
22. Edited out
23. Once ____ a time...
24. Clutched
25. Spicy
26. Football scores
28. Packaged set
29. Classical Japanese drama
30. Former mil. mission in Turkey
36. Cast or angle
37. CC's work area
38. Standard time in 8th zone west of Greenwich, UK
39. USAF commissioning source
40. Giant great
41. Singer Hill
44. Singer Cantrell
45. Bro's sib



47. UFO flyer
48. Tax
51. Resound
52. End of George S. Patton quote
54. Royal title
55. Peruvian capital
56. Sheep sound
57. Vase

58. X, to Cicero
59. 2005 Pacino movie ____ for the Money
60. Headgear
61. Picnic pest
62. Are We There Yet? Actress Long
63. PJ mission



Services Page editor.....Poppy Artherton
 509th Services Squadron.....687-7929
 *No federal endorsement of mentioned sponsors intended.

Visit www.whitemanservices.com for
 details of all upcoming events, pho-
 tographs, facility information and the
 Services Connection magazine.

Sports & Recreation

Fitness Center 687-5496

Climb to the top

Coming in April, the new fitness center incentive pro-
 gram - Climb to the Top. Log your miles on any of the car-
 dio machines and climb your way to the top of the world's
 100 highest mountains.

Beat the Heat!

**Get a relay team together for the
 second annual Beat the Heat 20K,
 7:30 a.m. April 14 at the
 Royal Oaks golf course.
 Form a team, run 5K individually or
 take on the whole 20K.
 Sign up at the fitness center or
 call with any questions.**

Outdoor Recreation and Information, Tickets and Travel 687-5565

Entertainment coupon books

Heading out of town or just to the city? Stop by out-
 door recreation and pick up a coupon book for Kansas
 City or Branson. The book costs \$25 and contains great
 deals on fine dining, fast food, movies and local events.

Privately owned vehicle resale lot

Looking to sell your car, boat, recreational vehicle,
 trailer or all terrain vehicle? Call into outdoor recreation
 for a permit and park your vehicle on the resale lot off
 Vandenburg. The permit costs \$5 for two weeks.

Food & Fun

Royal Oaks 687-5573

Steak House

Make the most of the lighter evenings with some twi-
 light golf followed by a great meal at the Royal Oaks
 Steak House. The club house is transformed into an inti-
 mate dining room, perfect for a romantic evening out. The
 steak house is open 5-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Mission's End 687-4422

Prime rib buffet

Enjoy a Mission's End specialty, 5-8 p.m. tonight. Slow
 roasted prime rib with all the trimmings. The buffet costs
 \$12.95 for members, \$14.95 for nonmembers.



Stars and Strikes 687-5114

Pot O' Gold challenge

St. Patrick's Singles Tournament. Today from 11 a.m.

Entry Fee: \$15 Cash Ratio: 1:5

3 Games on the same pair of lanes
 9-pin No-tap Multiple entries accepted; cash in ONCE

Special features

- Snack Bar Discount Coupons
- "300 Game" Prizes
- Bowling Prize Fund
- Color Pin Strike Prizes
- Marble Guess Prize Fund

SPONSORED IN PART BY **WAL-MART** ★

Saturday Night Color Pin 7pm Every Saturday 9-Pin No-Tap

3 Color pins placed in each pin setter
 All strikes carry over from game to game.

Sign up now!

Entry Fee \$15



COLOR PIN SPONSORED IN PART BY
 Have you met the new? ★
First Community Bank
 1000 Main Street, Suite 100

Community Activities

Arts and Crafts Center 687-5691

Stained glass class

Create a beautiful stained glass panel in the open
 enrollment, six-week, Thursday night classes at the arts
 and crafts center. The class meets 6-9 p.m. and costs \$45
 plus supplies. Sign up one day prior to starting.

Wire skills review

Brush up on jewelry making skills with a workshop,
 9-11 a.m. Tuesday at arts and crafts. Sign up by noon
 Monday. The class costs \$10 and participants receive 10
 percent discount on all supplies purchased during the
 class.

Framing class

Save money on framing by learning the skill yourself.
 Bring a 5"x7" picture to the class, 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at
 arts and crafts and learn to cut single and double mats,
 join a frame and assemble the final product. Sign up by
 noon Tuesday.

Community Center 687-5617

Glamour glitz for girls

Spend a little mom and daughter time noon-3:30p.m.
 Saturday at the community center. Use the boas, hats,
 gloves, crowns and handbags to dress up your daughter
 or bring your own. Moms are in charge of hair and make-
 up. Each girl will have approximately 10 photos taken
 which will be provide on CD for Mom along with the
 copyright. The cost is \$3, call to reserve a time.

Easter cards to go

Join in the card making party, 1-3 p.m. March 25 at
 the community center. The cards will be sent to our
 deployed troops. If you can't make it to the party, bring
 your handmade cards to the community center before
 March 25. No envelope necessary.

Teen Center 687-5819

Weekly activities

From web design to mural painting, writing outstand-
 ing job applications to promoting activities, there's some-
 thing for every 13- to 18-year-old at the teen center's
 evening activities, Monday through Thursday. Free for
 members, \$1 for nonmembers. Contact teen center for
 details.

Youth Center 687-5586

Youth baseball

T-ball and coach pitch for 5-to 9-year-olds starts at the
 end of April. Register now by picking up a packet from
 the youth center administration offices at room D in the
 Community Center. Packets available 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 Monday-Friday. Completed packets must be turned in
 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. April 5-7. T-ball costs \$40 for mem-
 bers, \$50 for nonmembers. Games start mid-May.

Volunteer coach training

Volunteers are needed to coach the youth t-ball teams.
 Pick up an application, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Fri-
 day from the youth center administration offices in room

Interactive Customer Evaluation

The 509th Services Squadron relies on you,
 our customers, to let us know what we're doing
 well and perhaps not so well. Please help us to
 exceed your expectations by providing us cus-
 tomer feedback via ICE or simply fill out a com-
 ment card at the facility you visit. We want to
 hear from you!

Family Child Care 687-1180

Orientation class

Receive training to become a licensed family child
 care provider on Whiteman from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., April
 10 - 14. Providers with chronic health problems are
 accepted. The program needs providers who are willing
 to care for children during swing and evening shifts and
 children with special needs. Stop by the FCC office to
 pick up a registration package. Registration must be
 received by the Wednesday prior to the class.

Base residents

Quality child care for military families is an important
 concern. Guidelines in Air Force Instruction 34-276,
 Family Child Care Programs, requires anyone providing
 in-home care for 10 hours (total for all children in care)
 or more a week on a regular to be licensed. If you are
 currently unlicensed, you must cease care and apply for a
 family child care license. Call for more details.

Child Development Center 687-5588

Developmental enrichment program

The child development center has openings for 3-to 5-
 year-olds in the Tuesday and Thursday morning develop-
 mental enrichment sessions. Children must have turned 3
 by Aug. 30 to be eligible.

Library 687-5614

Story time

Story time for pre-schoolers takes place every
 Wednesday at 10 a.m. when 3-to 5-year-olds can listen to
 a story or take part in a craft activity at the library. There
 is also the library's dial-a-story program with a new story
 every week. Available 24 hours-a-day by calling
 687-6255.

Veterinary Clinic 687-2667

New arrival?

It is very important when you get a new pet to make
 an appointment with your veterinarian. A vet can help
 prevent health and behavioral problems, vaccinate your
 pet against diseases, and identify potential problems. The
 Whiteman veterinary clinic is here to help in making
 decisions about buying or adopting a new pet. They have
 lots of information regarding pet care, training, and breed
 specific information. Please call or stop by.

Movie Schedule

7 p.m. Friday R

Matador
Starring-Pierce Brosnan and Greg Kinnear

7 p.m. Saturday PG-13

Annapolis
Starring-James Franco and Jordana Brewster

3 p.m. Sunday PG

Nanny McPhee
Starring-Emma Thompson and Colin Firth

Adults: \$3.50 Children: \$1.75
 Movie Recording Line: 687-5110
 Movies subject to change due to availability. For
 current and future movie listings log on to
www.aafes.com/ems/conus/whiteman.htm